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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

*Dockets  
Rm 230*

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*Mm Docket 92-254*

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8310-MEA  
CN9300324

RECEIVED

FEB 11 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Byron L. Dorgan  
United States Senate  
825 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of several constituents objecting to certain television campaign commercials concerning abortion. They describe these as very offensive and ask that such material be prohibited.

The issues raised by your constituents are currently being considered by the Commission. Your constituent's letters will be placed in the record of this proceeding.

I trust that the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

*Roy J. Stewart*  
Roy J. Stewart  
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 8  
List A B C D E

# Congressional

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CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM  
02/02/93

## LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300324	02/02/93	01/22/93	02/15/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Byron Dorgan	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
WDAZ Robt. Kerr	Inquiry/complaint re: tv ads .. abortion ads

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
MMB	ENF	CI	

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/02/93	2/2	2.2	

REMARKS:

2 FEB REC'D

189

BYRON DORGAN  
NORTH DAKOTA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

January 22, 1993

MMB  
mm-ads-tv  
324

Chairman Alfred C. Sikes  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

Enclosed please find a letter I received from Channel 8, WDAZ television in Grand Forks, North Dakota. I am passing these comments on to you, along with my sincere hopes, that the FCC will act immediately to address the serious problems regarding the nature of certain political advertisements.

As Mr. Kerr's letter indicates, many people in North Dakota were disgusted with the graphic nature of U.S. Senate candidate Donald Larson's TV ads during the recent election. Many parents were forced to turn their television sets off to prevent young children from viewing graphic scenes depicting abortion. Unfortunately, many more children saw these ads before their parents were able to monitor the channel. Many others, regardless of whether or not they had children, were deeply offended by the nature and content of these ads.

Once again, I urge you to act quickly to protect the public from future situations such as this when broadcasters are forced to air these often graphic political advertisements.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Byron L. Dorgan  
U.S. Senator

BLD:mmh  
Enclosures



January 15, 1993

JAN 19 1993

Honorable Byron Dorgan  
United States Senate  
825 Hart  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

Please accept my sincere thank you for your efforts and time spent with our Grand Forks delegation last week in Washington, D.C. concerning the possible closure of the Grand Forks Air Force Base. I realize how valuable your time is, especially during the first week of the new Congress. It is a frightening thought to think we might lose our Air Base not only because of the economic impact, but also from the strategic and military value to our nation. Hopefully with your continued efforts and the input from our Chamber, city and surrounding area we can convince the powers to be that the Grand Forks Air Force Base needs to remain open with a strong mission.

If I may impose, I would like to comment on a totally different issue, campaign reform. The F.C.C. is currently accepting public comment concerning political advertisements possibly deemed indecent or harmful to children. Obviously this was prompted by a variety of candidates representing the Right to Life group and airing anti-abortion ads. I am sure you are well aware of the situation with Darold Larson's ads that aired in North Dakota.

I have been a part of the electronic media for 27 years and have never seen such viewer response to an issue. The most disturbing part of the entire situation is our viewing public totally holding us responsible and not understanding that it is Congress and the F.C.C. that require us to air the federal campaign ads. Our station alone received over 500 telephone calls and 30 letters regarding this issue. I have enclosed just a few letters to give you an idea of what our viewers were saying. You will notice that some of these even acknowledge that federal law makes us air the ads, but they still held us responsible. Unfortunately, most calls and many letters did not leave their name or hung up before we could explain and that has been devastating for us in receiving the blame. In my opinion, it will be some time before we are able to overcome peoples attitudes over what "we did" and also to recover the financial losses from advertisers who cancelled so their commercials would not air before or after Mr. Larson's spots. Suprisingly enough, I only received two letters in favor of what Mr. Larson was trying to do. I'm not sure what role the F.C.C. will play in this issue and what possible changes could or would be made in Congress.

I only hope something can be done to clarify the issue before our next election in two years.

Sincerely,

*Robert S. Kerr*

Robert S. Kerr  
General Manager

Rt1 BX184  
Hallock MN  
56728

WDAL  
P.O. BX 638  
GR FHS N.D 58206

I will not be watching any television on stations that are running David Larson's "abortion" campaign ads.

I am deeply offended and disturbed by the liberties he is taking in the guise of "Freedom". This is the first time in my life, (I am 51 yrs old) that I am truly ashamed to be part of a free "society" that is not able to stop these horrible morbid pictures from invading my home and violating my belief in a good and wholesome America.

I am both sickened and saddened to have lived to see this day.

Marie Gillie

Pamela Anne Dinyowsky-Burke  
1816 Second Avenue North  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM HORRIFIED TO FIND THAT THERE ARE NO CENSORS ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING ON TELEVISION. THE COMMERCIALS WHICH GO AS FAR AS SHOWING ABORTED FETUS ARE JUST TOO GLAPAL TO BE SHOWN TO THE PUBLIC NOT TO MENTION ALL THE CHILDREN WHO SEE THE ADVERTISEMENTS. AS PARENTS, WE ARE TOLD TO SCREEN OUR CHILDREN'S T.V. VIEWING BUT WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CONTROL OVER THESE COMMERCIALS BEING SHOWN DURING THE EARLY MORNING NEWS OR PRIME TIME VIEWING.

YOU BETTER DO SOMETHING QUICKLY!  
GET THESE COMMERCIALS OFF THE AIR! I CANT BELIEVE THAT ANYONE WOULD CONSENT TO THIS TYPE OF CAMPAIGNING.

Pamela A Dinyowsky-Burke

WDAZ-8-

NOV. 6, 92

Am sending this letter to let you know that you just lost one Ch. 8. fan. I can't get over you showing and that my son had to see and he won't even be 7 till next month. I was trying to find something while he was getting ready for school and that ad was on and he saw it and almost cried because it freaked him out, and we the people in a round forbs put our trust in you to show things to us the Monys. Dad's kids can see without making us feel sick. if you think the money is worth more or because there is a rule that makes you do it then you will lose slot more people like us. if there is anything I can do to take that ad off then I can because know we should have to keep a list to know when they can watch t.v. till you. So what I feel is right. I have given up on W. D. A. Z. Mrs. Hyde

November 5, 1992

WDAZ-TV  
P.O.Box 638  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

RE: Abortion Commercial

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

To day I made a telephone call to the station for the first time. I called about the commercial that is currently running about abortion, a political time slot, ungoverned by Federal regulations. The commercial is gross and an insult to my sensibilities.

Unfortunately, I am unable to just turn the channel and not watch this type of commercial until the end of the election. We live in rural North Dakota and are unable to receive any other channel, thereby causing us to turn the TV off until December 4, 1992. Those of us in rural North Dakota, that have no choice in television stations, must either put up with this commercial or turn our sets off. Where did our rights go when this commercial started airing? We realize that as a private owned station, that the choice is not yours any more than it is ours, but this issue leaves much to be desired in choice.

Our household consists of three females, ages 17-41 and one male age 43, and all are in agreement that this is not the kind of thing that any of us want to view. If we wanted to see the scenes of an abortion, we are well able to investigate and view them on our own, instead we have no voice in this matter. I and my family resent having to endure this type of viewing material. This type of material is for the few who think that it will allow them to be elected to office. I fear that it is having the opposite effect. This commercial has us all opposed to the candidate that is endorsing this particular commercial.

Until this commercial, WDAZ has always held our attention in covering the news and providing us with entertainment. The choices that the station has made in programing have never caused us to regret having only one station. This commercial now has us doing that. Please let us, the public, know how we may help get legislation enacted to help regulate political commercials, so that this type of political blip, will never again be forced on anyone not wanting to view it.



92 Tanoak Park Drive  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA  
R2V 2W5  
Friday November 6, 1992

WDAZ TV  
600 DeMers Ave.  
Grand Forks, North Dakota  
58201

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you to express my extreme distress over a commercial you aired on Thursday November 5, 1992 at 4:30 PM. I am sure this commercial has been aired many other times. The commercial is one for Darold Larson for US Senate. I understand that there has been a lot of controversy over Mr. Larson's commercials. I also understand that Mr. Larson's commercials are not being aired anymore due to his personal financial problems. However, I feel it is extremely important that I bring the following to your attention.

The commercial, of offence to me, equated pictures from the Holocaust with pictures of fetuses below. My objection to this commercial has nothing to do with my views on abortion. I am offended by this commercial because the Holocaust has NOTHING to do with abortion. In this commercial Mr. Larson states that it is an unfortunate situation when the government does not care for human life. However, in the Holocaust eleven million people died not because Hitler did not care for all human life. Hitler specifically targeted his hatred towards Jewish life, homosexual life, Gypsy life, and on and on and on.

Mr. Larson's commercial is desecrating the memory of the innocent victims. Eventually if the commercial were to be aired many times, people would begin being annoyed with the visualization and the message relayed about the abortion issue. They will begin talking about the Holocaust as just another part of this annoying commercial. We can not let this happen. We can not let people underestimate the reality and immensity of the tragedy of the Holocaust.

11/4/92

7:00 pm

WDAZ-TV

600 DEMERS AVE

GRAND FORKS, ND 58203

I am in the midst of preparing dinner and also have the television on. I am appalled, disgusted and disbelieving at the advertisement your station just aired on behalf of the lunatic running for ~~governor~~<sup>senator</sup> of North Dakota (~~Gov. Conrad Dalrymple~~). How could you!

I understand that you cannot legally prohibit his political advertising, but nevertheless it makes me angry at your station. We just suffered a nasty presidential campaign. Must we be subjected to "advertising" such as this? It is not the horror of abortion that appalls me, but the fact that we are held hostage to a madman's rantings & ravings. And you, as a station, are also hostage. Your hands are tied. Doesn't that bother you? How did you and the other stations come to be in such a position of acquiescence? Aren't you embarrassed?

BYRON DORGAN  
NORTH DAKOTA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

January 22, 1993

Chairman Alfred C. Sikes  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan  
U.S. Senator

BLD:mmh  
Enclosures

BYRON DORGAN  
NORTH DAKOTA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

January 22, 1993

Mr. Robert S. Kerr  
General Manager  
WDAZ Television  
Box 638  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58206-0638

Dear Robert:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Donald Larson's political ads during the recent election.

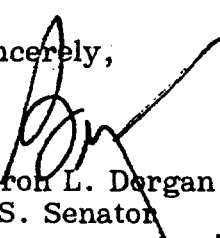
Obviously, I was well aware of this serious matter. I have sent your comments and concerns along to Alfred Sikes, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). For your information, I have included a copy of the letter.

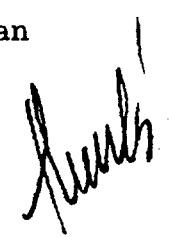
I realize that your hands were tied, and that in airing Mr. Larson's ads, you received quite a bit of grief from North Dakota viewers. I appreciate the situation in which you found yourself.

I am pleased that the FCC is receiving public comments about this and is reviewing the regulations governing the airing of political ads. It is unfair that you "caught the heat", and that so many people were deeply offended. As I stated, I have written to Chairman Sikes and asked that he consider your comments as they go about this process, and I have urged that they do this quickly.

Once again, thank you for getting in touch with me. I hope you will continue to do so in the future about this or any other matter of concern to yourself or WDAZ.

Sincerely,

  
Byron L. Dorgan  
U.S. Senator



BLD:mmh  
Enclosure